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The forward movement of the story of Carthage, as Gsell tells it in these two volumes, and the lucidity of his style make the book a delight to the reader. At the same time all the information which may be had from the study of ethnology, archaeology, topography, literature, and the inscriptions is brought to bear on the subject. The high standard of scholarship and the clarity which the author attained in his first volume, on primitive times and on the founding of the Empire of Carthage, have been maintained in these two instalments, and when they have been supplemented by the three volumes which he has in preparation, to bring the narrative down to the Byzantine period, they will give us a survey of the ancient history of Northern Africa which should be the standard work on the subject for many years.

FRANK FROST ABBOTT.

BOOKS OF MEDIEVAL AND MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

Les Origines de l'Ancienne France. Par JACQUES FLACH. Volume IV. *Les Nationalités Régionales. Leurs Rapports avec la Couronne de France.* (Paris: Librairie de Société du Recueil Sirey, Léon Tenin, Directeur. 1917. Pp. xi, 655. 15 fr.)

I SHOULD like to ask that my review of the third volume of M. Flach's work in volume IX. of this *Review*, pages 777-782 (July, 1904), written in the days of less restricted space, be considered a part of the present notice. The place of volume IV. in the author's whole plan is there indicated and the general characteristics of his method and the originality of his ideas sufficiently pointed out.

Volume IV. is the second part of book IV., *The Renaissance of the State*, and has for its subtitle *Le Principat*. It is entirely occupied in discussing the relation between the great baronial states, Flanders, Normandy, etc., and the kingdom of France in the tenth and eleventh centuries. Its special thesis is that there was no feudal bond between the king and the great barons, no homage and no investiture; the oath was that of allegiance and the *Handreichung* a form of agreement merely; the hold which the king retained over the great baron was only that from the general idea of sovereignty; practically the barons were peers of the king, entered into treaties with him as equal partners, made war on him with no breaking of a special bond, and based their power on their own distinct ethnic community, as he did his on that of the Duchy of France. It was Philip Augustus who introduced the feudal tie and made the great barons vassals of the king. In the author's words (pp. 29-30): "As the *regnum Francorum* fell apart, maritime Flanders became a nucleus around which there formed a state distinct from Francia but which remained attached to it by a traditional bond. If the Carolingian count Baldwin was the vassal of his father-in-law Charles the Bald, it is not less certain in my opinion that under his successors this vassalage became an ethnic dependence. Flanders ceased to be a benefice in becoming a state. It is only by a reverse movement that she will

become two centuries later a great fief of the crown." It is hardly necessary to say that this theory is in direct opposition to the reigning explanation of the facts, so ably presented by M. Ferdinand Lot in his *Fidèles ou Vassaux*, and the difficulty of establishing it will be at once appreciated.

Two cardinal difficulties receive little attention from the author. If the feudal bond existed at the end of the ninth century between the Carolingian king and the regional dukes and counts, how did this connection disappear in the tenth and early eleventh centuries, to be renewed in the reign of Philip Augustus, so late in the history of the formation of the feudal system? If the feudal bond existed in its most characteristic features between the regional great baron and his vassals in his county or duchy, why should it not exist between the great baron and the king, and why should not terms, implying a technical significance, have the same meaning when applied to one relationship as to the other? A specific instance of the author's interpretation of terms may illustrate at once the second question and the author's method of treating his evidence, of which it is too characteristic. On page 137 in note 1, he cites the passage: *Willelmus princeps Nordmannorum eidem regi se committit*, having just before denied in the text that the duke of Normandy did homage to the king, and on page 159 he says: "Far from having found the least proof that the duke of Normandy did homage to the king"; but on page 145 he says that the same chronicler, Flodoard, "tells us expressly that a part of the Norman barons did homage, some to the king, Louis d Outremer, others to Hugh the Great". but the only proof he gives is this passage quoted in the note: *Quidem principes ipsius [Willelmi] se regi committunt, quidem vero Hugoni duci*. Identically the same expression is proof of homage in one case and not the least proof in the other. The volume is full of interest and suggestion to students of the period, though hardly the equal in these respects to those that have preceded it.

G. B. ADAMS.

The Beginnings of Modern Europe (1250-1450). By EPHRAIM EMERTON, Ph.D., Professor of History in Harvard University. (Boston: Ginn and Company. 1917. Pp. xi, 550. \$1.80.)

THIRTY years ago Professor Emerton wrote his *Introduction to the Middle Ages (375-814)*, which has furnished many generations of pupils in high schools and colleges a pleasant introduction to medieval history. In 1894 this was followed by his *Mediaeval Europe (814-1300)*. The present volume continues the series by bringing the general history of Europe down to about 1450. On many pages the date 1450 is exceeded so far that 1500 would have served as well as 1450 on the title-page. In format, print, and binding, the new volume is identical with the *Mediaeval Europe*, but whereas that and the *Introduction* were supplied with